
NEVER
TOUCH
GUNS
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committee for children

K-3 Gun Safety Lesson

This gun safety lesson has been adapted from Grade 3, Lesson 3 of the *Talking About Touching* program.

Teaching Notes

With the rising incidence of children getting hurt or killed by careless use of firearms, children need to be cautioned at an early age never to touch real guns. Keep in mind that some families either collect guns or use them for hunting, and some children may be familiar with seeing guns. Stress that guns should never be played with like toys and that children should always have adult supervision when they are around guns.

Your school may have a policy about bringing guns or other weapons to school. This would be a good time to review this policy and discuss how it helps children stay safe at school.

Concept

Touching and playing with guns is dangerous.

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Identify the gun safety rule: Never touch guns
- Demonstrate what to do if someone wants them to touch a gun

Materials

- Never Touch Guns card
- K–3 Gun Safety lesson card
- Safety Rules Family Letter

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½" Blue Bar 18# Bond

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Story and Discussion

What are some rules you follow to stay safe? (Wear a bike helmet. Look all ways before crossing the street. Wear a seat belt.) **Today we are going to talk about a safety rule for guns.**

Show picture. **In this picture, we see Sam and Raoul. Sam is showing Raoul a gun he just found in the garage. He is telling Raoul that he thinks it would be fun to play with the gun.**

1. **What might happen if Sam and Raoul played with the gun?** (They might get hurt or hurt someone else.)

2. **How do you think Raoul feels about what Sam wants to do?** (Anxious. Afraid. Doesn't want to do it. Maybe wants to, but knows it's dangerous.)

3. **What should Raoul say to Sam?** (No. It's not safe to touch guns.) Show students the Gun Safety Rule card. **The Gun Safety Rule is: Never touch guns.** Have students say the rule with you: **Never touch guns.**

4. **What should the boys do now that they know there's a gun in the garage?** (Leave it alone. Tell a grown-up that they found it.)

Skill Practice

Have students practice. **Now it's your turn to practice.** Explain and model these steps using the first scenario below.

1. Read a scenario to students.

2. Ask all students: **What's the Gun Safety Rule?** Have all students say the rule together. (Never touch guns.)

3. Call on a few students at random to stand, face you, and refuse to touch the gun: **No. That's not safe.**

4. Ask all students: **Who should you tell?** (Mom. Dad. Grandpa. Aunt. Babysitter. Teacher.)

Scenarios

- **Pretend I am your sister. "Do you want to play with a gun I found in the garage?**
- **Pretend I am your neighbor's son. "My grandfather has a hunting rifle. Would you like to hold it?"**
- **Pretend I am your friend. "I found a gun in the cupboard. Do you want to see if it's loaded?"**
- **Pretend I am your cousin. "My mom keeps a gun in her drawer. Let's go play with it."**
- **Pretend I am your brother. "Did you know Dad keeps a gun under the bed? Let's take it out back and shoot some cans."**
- **Pretend I am an older boy at school. "I brought a gun to school. It's in my backpack. Do you want to hold it?"**

Summary

Remember, guns are not toys. They are dangerous. Show the Never Touch Guns card. **Let's say the Gun Safety Rule together: Never touch guns. If someone wants you to touch or play with a gun, what should you do?** (Say "No, that's not safe," and tell a grown-up.) **Grown-ups should protect you and keep you safe, so always tell us about guns!**

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Dear Family,

You can help your child learn to be safe if you talk about safety and practice using safety rules at home. Below are some important rules to talk about with your child.

Gun safety. Your child had a lesson about gun safety. The lesson explains that guns are not toys and they are dangerous. Children learn to refuse to touch a gun and then to tell an adult they know about the gun. Reminder: Adults should always lock up any guns they might have in the house.

Car safety. Keep your child safe in the car by making sure that he or she sits in the backseat and wears a seatbelt at all times. If your child weighs less than 80 pounds and is shorter than 4′9″, then he or she should ride in a booster seat. Without booster seats, an adult lap belt rides up over a small child's stomach and the shoulder belt cuts across a child's neck. In a crash, this can cause serious or fatal injuries. Child safety seats with boosters work well to protect children in crashes. All children under age 12 should sit properly restrained in the back seat.

Walking safety. Keep your children safe when walking by teaching them to look in every direction before crossing the street, and if there's no sidewalk, to always walk on the side of the road facing oncoming traffic.

Riding safety. Keep your child safe when riding on wheels (for example, bicycles, skateboards, scooters, and inline skates) by having him or her always wear a helmet. Help your child learn to make sure the helmet fits correctly by using the Ears-Eyes-Chin Check: children should be able to just barely see the brim of their helmet when they look up, the straps should make a Y-shape around the ears, and the strap should fit snugly around his or her chin.

Fire safety. Keep your child safe from fire injuries by teaching him or her to never play with fire or anything that makes fire.

Dog safety. Keep your child safe around strange dogs by teaching him or her to always ask a parent or the person in charge before touching a dog.

Water safety. Keep your child safe around water by teaching him or her to never go in water without an older person watching.

Knife safety. Keep your child safe around knives and other sharp objects by teaching him or her to only use knives or sharp objects with the help of an older person.

Remind your child to follow these safety rules often. When you see your child following a safety rule, tell your child what you've noticed and how it is helping keep him or her safe.

Sincerely,

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